

HONORING THE LIFE OF DON  
DAVIS

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to honor the life of a good friend, outstanding Florida and community leader State Representative Don Davis. Don passed away after a brave battle with cancer on April 10, 2008. He represented part of St. Johns County and Florida's First Coast since 2000.

Those who knew him as their Representative in Tallahassee and the People throughout the State of Florida who worked with him lost one of its most capable and dedicated public servants. He served his Nation as a decorated Korean War veteran. He served his community as a true gentleman and someone who was respected by everyone who was honored to know him.

Before representing the people of Jacksonville in the State Legislature, Don was elected to the Jacksonville City Council and was elected several terms as president of the council. His leadership and great sense of humor were special hallmarks by which he will always be remembered. Colleagues remember Don as always willing to lend a helping hand in no matter how big or small a task.

Don was devoted to his community as a leader in the American Cancer Society, the Florida Theatre, The First Tee of Jacksonville, Prisoners of Christ, and other organizations.

Born in Okemah, Oklahoma, he attended the Los Angeles City College (1949–1950), University of Redlands (1950), and the University of California-Los Angeles (1959).

The Jacksonville area, the State of Florida, and our Nation has lost a wonderful and distinguished leader.

To his wife, Alice, and two sons, Donald Jr. and Dean; and on behalf of the House of Representatives, we extend our deepest sympathy.

HONORING BRIDGES . . . A COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEM, INC. AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to Bridges . . . A Community Support System, Inc. of Milford, Connecticut as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this outstanding organization dedicated to providing support and mental health services to those in need.

Originally founded in 1957 as the Milford Family Counseling Association, the organization's mission initially focused on addressing the mental health need of children in the Milford community. The organization expanded so did its scope of services—including adult psychiatric services, drug and alcohol prevention services and opening its doors to the neighboring communities of Orange and West

Haven. As the needs of our communities and its residents changed, so did the agency as well as its name. Designated in the 1990' by the State of Connecticut as the Local Mental Health Authority, the organization made its final name change in 1999 to Bridges . . . A Community Support System to better reflect its purpose and mission.

Today, Bridges, working with local agencies and organizations, is able to provide a multitude of programs to those most in need. From individual counseling to bereavement support; teenage drug and alcohol prevention to vocational and social rehabilitation services, Bridges and its dedicated staff have continually identified the changing needs of our community. The partnerships they have established allow them to provide comprehensive services to their clients—making a real difference in the lives of thousands of children and families.

In building upon the vision first established with the Milford Family Counseling Association, Bridges has been able to provide those coping with the challenges of mental illnesses with one of life's most precious gifts—hope. Through its gift of hope, Bridges has left an indelible mark on our community and the thousands of lives they have touched. In its fifty year history, Bridges has established itself as an invaluable resource as well as respected advocates—not only for their clients, but community leaders and policy-makers alike.

Today, Bridges is continuing its legacy of helping people live more fulfilling and productive lives by providing clients with "Pathways to Health, Hope, and Recovery." For its many invaluable contributions to our community and for all of their work on behalf of our children and families, I am proud to stand today and extend my sincere congratulations to the Bridges . . . A Community Support System on their 50th anniversary.

HONORING IRMA P. HALL

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Irma Hall, a grand American and educator, for her commitment to the arts and to the community of Dallas.

The daughter of Josephine Hall, Irma Dolores Player Hall was born in Beaumont, Texas. She was raised on the South Side of Chicago, Illinois, where her father was a saxophone player who performed jazz music. She then went on to attend Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa.

This native Texan taught school in Dallas ISD for 30 years inspiring many of our youth to succeed. Irma Hall retired from teaching in 1984.

An interest in acting eventually led her to co-find the Dallas Minority Regional Theater with Reginald Montgomery in 1973. She made her stage debut there in "Happy Endings." An acclaimed actress, Ms. Hall shined in such plays as "Raisin In the Sun," "Zooman and the Sign," and "Take a Giant Step."

Ms. Hall's career on the silver screen also began in 1973 after a director saw her at a poetry reading. An accomplished poet, Irma

Hall's reading was so poignant that Raymond St. Jacques cast her in the crime film Book of Numbers. This led to frequent television roles. In 1979, Ms. Hall appeared in "The Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders" and its 1980 sequel, Ron Howard's "Skyward." In 1981, she acted opposite Joanne Woodward in "Crisis at Central High."

Throughout the 1990s, Ms. Hall had roles in several well known feature films including "Backdraft," "Straight Talk," "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," and "Beloved." Her role in the film "A Family Thing" earned her acclaim and a Chicago Film Critics Association Award. In 1997, Ms. Hall was voted Chicagoan of the Year and also won an Image award for her role in the film "Soul Food."

Ms. Hall continued her television career in the early 2000s with roles in the television series "Soul Food," "A Girl Thing," and "All Souls." In 2004, she received the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival for her role as the landlady in the film "The Ladykillers."

In 2007, the UIL Competition was renamed in honor of Ms. Hall as the Irma P. Hall Theater Festival in order to honor her for her work and achievements.

The arts are, above all, about human communication and interaction. I am one who believes that Ms. Irma Hall has achieved the fullest definition of a role model, not only as a woman, an African American, and an artist, but as an ambassador of creativity and goodwill. She has shared the beauty of the arts and the written word with our multicultural community that is Dallas.

Today, Ms. Hall continues her work with the Dallas Minority Repertory Theater, the Artist & Elaine Thornton Foundation for the Arts, the African American Museum, the Afro American Artists Alliance, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and her membership at the Inspiration Boy of Christ Church.

Madam Speaker, on April 19, 2008, the Dallas community will gather at a special dinner to honor and celebrate Irma Hall's career. I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting an exceptional woman, Irma Hall, for her outstanding service and many contributions to Dallas, and to all who love the magic and vitality of art.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, on April 10th, 2008, I was unable to vote due to a prior commitment in my district. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on roll-call votes 178, 179, 180, 181, and 182.

HONORING ROBERT J. LEENEY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable career of Robert J. Leeney, a member of our local media community whose talent

and gift for words has left an indelible mark on the New Haven Register and its readers. After a career that has spanned seven decades, Bob announced his retirement and published his last column Saturday, April 21, 2007—just a month before his 91st birthday. His quick wit and unique perspectives will be missed by colleagues and readers alike. As so aptly put by colleague and current Register editorial page editor Charles Kochakian, Bob Leeney is indeed irreplaceable.

Bob's distinguished career in journalism began as a freelance writer in 1939 and he was soon brought on staff as a reporter, Sunday feature writer, and book critic at the New Haven Register. His only absence from the Register was due to his 2 years of service with the 3rd Air Commando Group, 5th Air Force during World War II. Bob became an editorial writer and served as the editor for the editorial page from 1947 until 1961, becoming executive editor in 1962 and finally editor from 1972–1981. During his tenure as editor, Bob was responsible for the technological modernization of the paper, introducing letters to the editor as well as the creation of the Sunday Arts & Leisure Section—literally changing the face of the New Haven Register. It is fair to say that the New Haven Register will not be the same without him.

After more than 40 years with the paper, Bob did step down as editor; however, some of his most invaluable contributions were still yet to come. His column, "Editor's Note," described as a fusion of literate prose and revealing insights, became a Saturday fixture—a must read for all Register subscribers. In fact, Bob did not miss 1 week writing his column in its 33 year run. "Editor's Note" was more than a weekly column—it chronicled New Haven's history and affairs with the unique perspective of its Irish-American author, creating a unique connection between the readers of the Register and our community's rich history.

Bob's contributions to journalism expand far beyond his work with the Register. He was a charter member of the Connecticut Society of Professional Journalists chapter, where he is now honored as a member of the Connecticut Journalism Hall of Fame. He served as the Commissioner of the Freedom of Information Commission for 5 years and has been recognized with a variety of accolades and awards throughout his career. The Yankee Quill Award for distinguished service to journalism, the Seal of the City Award from the New Haven Colony Historical Society in recognition of his contributions to New Haven's civic life, and the plaque that hangs in the heart of New Haven's Audubon arts district are but a few examples but serve as a reflection of all that this New Haven native has brought to our community.

As a respected journalist, community member, mentor, and friend, Robert J. Leeney has left an indelible mark on our community and a legacy that will continue to inspire generations of journalists to come. I am proud to stand today to recognize his outstanding contributions and extend my deepest thanks and appreciation for all of his good work.

# TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT CHARLES EDWIN EATON

## HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles Edwin "Cotton" Eaton. On December 26, 2007, Cotton Eaton's family, the community of Athens, Texas and this country lost another hero in America's greatest generation. Born and raised in Navarro County in Texas, Cotton Eaton went on to serve his country proudly in the United States Army during World War II in the South Pacific. In peacetime, Cotton Eaton put his entrepreneurial spirit to work for this country as he owned and operated the Eaton Motor Company in Athens, Texas before retiring in 1988. Cotton Eaton's wit and spirited nature, anchored by a commitment to his family and community, earned him the respect of so many. Despite his own extraordinary contributions, Cotton Eaton always celebrated the gratitude of God's goodness in life.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this true American hero and offer my condolences to Cotton Eaton's wife of 67 years, Dorothy, their two children, Janice and John, and their grandchildren and great-grand children.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Charles Edwin "Cotton" Eaton.

# HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN W. CUNNINGHAM

## HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and outstanding leader in the labor movement, John W. Cunningham. His passing marks the end of an era at the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local Union 210 and the loss of a dear friend to many across Connecticut.

John was a carpenter. He worked hard all of his life and his commitment to the labor movement as well as his membership is unequalled. Joining Local 210 in 1956, just 10 years later he became a business representative and would serve the next 30 years as the General Agent of Carpenters Local Union 210. He was active both locally and nationally—fighting for policies and protections for his membership and working men and women across the country. In addition to his service with Local 210, John also served as the Vice-President of the Connecticut State AFL-CIO, President of the Stamford Labor Council, and President of the New England Regional Council of Carpenters. There was no stronger advocate or determined voice than that of John Cunningham.

John was responsible for the creation of the Carpenter's Legislative Improvement Committee which was the first federal political action committee established by a local union—providing a voice for carpenters' issues at the national level. And in the early 1990s John

formed the President's Committee with other union leaders which strengthened the Brotherhood nationally by providing new leadership and making it more responsive to the needs of its members. John was also instrumental in opening the doors of opportunity to women and minorities by implanting outreach programs which brought them into the trade.

John's efforts on behalf of working families extended far beyond his work to shape public policy. During his tenure, he created the Connecticut Carpenters' Health and Pension Fund and established Local 210's Scholarship fund which assisted members' children in pursuing higher education. He launched an apprenticeship and training program and began a program of inviting union members and the public to forums where they would hear from speakers that included Nobel Laureates, Pulitzer Prize authors, economists, and elected leaders. Perhaps most telling of his civic minded nature was his leadership during the National Building Trade Council's efforts to help the families of the 28 construction workers killed at the L'Ambiance construction disaster in 1987.

John understood the importance of serving one's community. He was an active member of the Weston community where he served on a number of boards and commissions, including the School Building Committee, the Town Building Committee, Planning & Zoning, Little League Baseball, and was a founding member of the Weston Booster Club. He was an extraordinary man who dedicated countless hours to making all the difference in the lives of thousands.

I join all of his friends and colleagues in extending my deepest sympathies to John's wife, Virginia, his six children; Kimberly, Devon, Bill, John, Caroline, and Diana, as well as his seven grandchildren; Chalan, Maeveren, Conor, Brennen, Makena, Samuel, and Geneva. I am honored to have this opportunity to pay tribute to the life of John W. Cunningham. His is a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

# RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5724, UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTIONS AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

## HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1092, a rule to suspend fast track procedures for the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA). U.S. trade policy should promote democracy based on the protection of fundamental human rights. However, by sending the Colombia FTA to Congress, President Bush has disregarded the rights of workers in Colombia and the needs of working families in the U.S.

Since the 1980s, more than 2,500 workers have been assassinated in Colombia for joining, forming, or leading labor unions. More unionists are killed in Colombia each year than the rest of the world combined. We should not be engaging in free trade policies with a nation whose human rights record is so abysmal.